

New-England

A Degenerate

PLANT.

Who having forgot their former

Sufferings, and lost their ancient tenderness, are
now become famous among the Nations in bring-

ing forth the fruits of cruelty, wherein they

have far outstript their Persecutors the Bishops, as by

these their ensuing LAWS you may

plainly see.

Published for the information of all sober People who

desire to know how the state of *New-England* now

stands, and upon what foundation the *New-Eng-*

land Churches are built, and by whose strength

they are upholden now they are degenerated and

have forsaken the LORD.

The Truth of which we are Wit-
nesses, (who by their cruel
hands have suffered)

John Rous

John Copehand

Samuel Shastock

Nicholas Phelps

Joseph Southwick

Strangers

Inhabitants

Whereunto is annexed a Copy of a Letter which came

from one who hath been a Magistrate among them,

to a friend of his in *London*, wherein he gives an

account of some of the cruel suffering of the

people of God in those parts under the

Rulers of *New-England*, and their un-

righteous Laws.

LONDON, Printed in the Year 1659.

G. Pamph. 2817 (8)

New-England a Degenerate Plant, as is manifest by their following Laws.

At a General Court held at Boston, the 14.
of October, 1656.

VHereas there is a cursed Sect of Hereticks lately
risen up in the World, which are commonly cal-
led *Quakers*, who take upon them to be immediately sent of
God, and infallibly assisted by the Spirit to speak and write
blasphemous opinions, despising Government, and the or-
der of God in Church and Common-Wealth, speaking e-
vil of Dignities, reproaching and reviling Magistrates, and
Ministers, seeking to turn the people from the faith, and
gain profelytes to their pernicious wayes. This Court tak-
ing into serious consideration the premises, and to prevent
the like mischief as by their means is wrought in our native
Land, doth hereby order, and by the Authority of this
Court be it ordered and enacted, That what Master or Com-
mander of any Ship, Bark, Pinn or Catch, that shall hence-
forth bring into any Harbour, Creek or Cove within this
Jurisdiction, any *Quaker* or *Quakers*, or other blasphemous
Hereticks, shall pay, or cause to be paid the Fine of one hun-
dred pounds, to the Treasurer of the Countrey, except it
appear he want true knowledge or information of their be-
ing such, and in that case he hath liberty to clear himself
by his oath, when sufficient prooffe to the contrary
is wanting, and for default of good payment, or good secu-
rity for it, shall be cast into prison, and there to continue
till the said sum be satisfied to the Treasurer as aforesaid,
and the Commander of any Catch, Ship, or Vessel that shall
bring them, being legally convicted, shall give in sufficient
security to the Governor, or any one or more of the Magi-
strates

strates, who have power to determine the same, to carry them back to the place whence he brought them, and on his refusal so to do, the Governor, or one or more of the Magistrates are hereby impowered to issue out his or their Warrants to commit such Master or Commander to prison, there to continue till he give in sufficient security to the content of the Governor or any of the Magistrates, as aforesaid. And it is hereby further ordered and enacted, That what Quaker soever shall arrive in this Countrey from foreign parts, or shall come into this Jurisdiction from any parts adjacent, shall be forthwith committed to the house of Correction, and at their entrance to be severely whipt, and by the Master thereof to be kept constantly to work, and none suffered to converse or speak with them during the time of their imprisonment, (which shall be no longer then necessity require.) And it is ordered, If any person shall knowingly import into any harbour of this Jurisdiction any Quakers Books or Writings concerning their Devillish Opinions, shall pay for every such Book or Writing, (being legally proved against him or them) the sum of five pounds. And whosoever shall disperse or conceal any such Book or Writing, and it be found with him or her, or in his or her house, and shall not immediately deliver the same to the next Magistrate, shall forfeit and pay five pounds for the dispersing or concealing of every such Book or Writing. And it is hereby further enacted, That if any person within this Colony shall take upon them to defend the heretical Opinions of the said Quakers, or any of their books or Papers as aforesaid, if legally proved, shall be fined for the first time for so doing, if they shall persist in the same, and shall be fined again at the second time, &c. if notwithstanding they shall again defend and maintain the said Quakers heretical Opinions they shall be committed to the house of correction till there be convenient passage to send them out of the Land; being sentenced by the Court of Assizes upon Omeur testimony. And is hereby ordered, That what person or persons soever shall revile the person of Magistrates or Ministers, as is usual with the Quakers, each per-

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son or persons shall be severely Whipt, or pay the sum of Five pounds. *This is a true Copy of the Courts Order, as Attest*

Edward Rawson, Secretary.

Made at the General Court held at Boston, the

14 of October, 1657.

AS an Addition to the late Order, in reference to the Coming, or bringing in any of the cursed Sect of the Quakers into this Jurisdiction, It is Ordered, That whosoever shall from henceforth bring, or cause to be brought directly or indirectly, any known Quaker, or Quakers, or other Blasphemous Hereticks into this Jurisdiction, every such persons shall forfeit the sum of One hundred pounds to the Country, and shall by Warrant from any Magistrate be committed to Prison, there to remain till the penalty be satisfied and paid : And if any Person, or Persons within this Jurisdiction, shall henceforth entertain and conceal any such Quaker or Quakers, or other blasphemous Hereticks (knowing them so to be) every such person shall forfeit to the Country Forty shillings for every hours entertainment and concealment of any Quaker or Quakers, &c. as aforesaid, and shall be committed to Prison as aforesaid, till the forfeitures be fully satisfied and paid : And it is further Ordered, That if any Quaker or Quakers shall presume after they have once suffered what the Law requireth, to come into this Jurisdiction, every such Male-quaker shall for the first Offence have one of his Ears cut off, and be kept at work in the House of Correction till he can be sent away at his own Charge ; And for the second Offence, shall have his other Ear cut off, and kept at the House of Correction as aforesaid. And every Woman-quaker that hath suffered the Law here, that shall presume to come into this Jurisdiction, shall be severely whipt, and kept at the House of Correction at Work till she be sent away at her own Charge ; and so also for her comidg again, she shall be alike used as aforesaid : And for every Quaker, he or shee, that shall a Third time

time herein again Offend, they shall have their Tongues bored through with a hot Iron, and kept at the House of Correction close to Work, till they be sent away at their own Charge. And it is further Ordered, That all and every Quaker, arising from amongst ourselves, shall be dealt with, and suffer the like punishments as the Law provides against forreign Quakers. *This is a true Copy of the Courts Order, in Attest*

Edward Rawson, Secret.

At a General Court held at Boston, the
20. of May, 1658.

That Quakers, and such accursed Hereticks, arising among our selves, may be dealt withal, according to their deserts, and that their pestilent Errours and Practises may be speedily prevented, It is hereby Ordered as an Addition to the former laws against Quakers, That every such person or persons professing any of their pernicious Wayes, by speaking, writing, or by meeting on the Lords-day, or at any other time, to strengthen themselves, or seduce others to their Diabolical Doctrines, shall after due means of Conviction, incur the penalty ensuing; that is, Every person so meeting, shall pay to the Country for every time ten shillings; and every one Speaking in such a Meeting shall pay Five pound a piece; and in case any such person hath been punished by Scourging or Whipping the first time according to the former Laws, shall be still kept at Work in the House of Correction, till they put in Security with two sufficient men, that they shall not any more vent their hateful Errors, nor use their sinful Practises, or else shall depart this Jurisdiction at their own Charges: And if any of them Return again, then each such person shall incur the penalty of the Laws formerly made, for Strangers. *By the Court,*

Edw. Rawson, Sec.

*An Act made at a General Court held at Boston,
the 20. of October, 1658.*

WHereas there is a pernicious Sect (commonly called Quakers) lately risen up, who by Word and Writing have published and maintained many dangerous and horrid Tenents, and do take upon them to change and alter the received laudable Customs of our Nation, in giving civil Respect to Equals, and Reverence to Superiors; whose actions tend to undermine the Authority of civil Government, and also to destroy the Order of the Churches, by denying all established Forms of Worship, and by withdrawing from the orderly Church-assemblies, allowed and approved by all Orthodox Professors of the Truth; and instead thereof, and in opposition thereunto, frequenting private Meetings of their own, insinuating themselves into the minds of the Simple, or such as are least affected to the Order and Government of Church and Common-wealth; whereby divers of our Inhabitants have been infected and seduced, notwithstanding all former Laws made upon the experience of their arrogant and bold obtrusions to defeminate their Principles among us, prohibiting their coming into this Jurisdiction, they have not been deterred from their impetuous attempts, to undermine our Peace, and hasten our Ruine.

For prevention thereof, This Court doth Order and Enact, That every person or persons of the accursed Sect of the Quakers, which is not an Inhabitant of, but is found within this Jurisdiction, shall be apprehended without Warrant, where no Magistrate is at hand, by any Constable, Commissioner, or Select man, and conveyed from Constable to Constable, until they come before the next Magistrate, who shall commit the said person or persons to close Prison, thereto remain (without bail) until the next Court of Assistance, where they shall have a legal Tryal by a special Jury: And being convicted to be of the Sect of the Quakers, shall be sentenced to be Banished upon pain of Death.

Death. And that every Inhabitant of this Jurisdiction being convicted to be of the aforesaid Sect, either by taking up, publishing, or defending the horrid Opinions of the Quakers, or the stirring up Mutiny, Sedition, or Rebellion against the Government, or by taking up their absurd and destructive Practises, viz. Denying civil Respect to Equals and Reverence to Superiors, and with-drawing from our Church Assemblies, and instead thereof, frequent private Meetings of their own in opposition to Church-Orders, or by adhering to, or approving of any known Quaker, and the Tenents and Practises of the Quakers, that are opposite to the Orthodox received Opinions and Practises of the godly, and endeavouring to disaffect others to civil Government and Church-Orders, or condemning the Practise and Proceedings of this Court against the Quakers, manifesting thereby, their complying with those whose Design is to over-throw the Order Established in Church and State, every such person upon examination and legal conviction before the said Court of Assistance, in manner as abovesaid, shall be committed to close Prison for one Month, and then unless they chuse voluntarily to depart this Jurisdiction, shall give Bond for their good Behaviour, and appear at the next Court of Assistants, where continuing obstinate, and refusing to Retract, and Reform the said Opinions and Practises, shall be sentenced to Banishment upon pain of Death: And in case of the aforesaid voluntary Departure, not to Remain, nor again to Return into this Jurisdiction, without the allowance of the Council first had and published, on penalty of being Banished upon pain of Death: And any one Magistrate upon Information given him, shall cause them to be apprehended, and if upon Examination of the Case he shall find just ground of such complaints, he shall commit such person or persons to Prison, according to his best Discretion, until he come to Tryal, as is above express.

*At a General Court held at Boston, the 13th.
of May 1659.*

WHereas the General Court, *Octob.* last, for the reasons mentioned in the Order then made for the preventing of those evils which the cursed Quakers in their principles and practices are apt to procure in those places where they come, did order, That all such persons (not being Inhabitants of this Jurisdiction, that are of the cursed Sect of the Quakers) who have at any time suffered what the Laws of this Jurisdiction from time to time have provided against such persons again arriving in any place of this Jurisdiction, should be seized on, and committed to close prison, there to continue till the next Court of Assistants, when he, or they shall be sentenced to banishment on pain of death.

And whereas *William Brend* (a known Quaker that hath formerly suffered the Laws) hath notwithstanding the abovementioned Laws, come into this Jurisdiction, being sent to prison, and openly before the Court acknowledged himself to be one of those the World in scorn called Quakers: this court doth therefore order, that the said *William Brend* be committed to prison, there to remain till the 16th. of this instant month; and then discharged the prison, and shall depart this Jurisdiction on pain of death; and that if after the 18th. day of this instant *May*, he shall be found within any part of this Jurisdiction, he shall be apprehended and committed to prison, to be proceeded with according to Law.

This is a true copy of the Courts Order, as witnessed Edward Rawson *Secretary.*

To the Keeper of the prison in Boston, &c. you are required to execute this Order accordingly, Edw. Rawson.

At a General Court held at Boston, the
11. of May, 1659.

IT is Ordered, That *Danvers Southwick*, and *Cassandah his Wife, Sammel Sharbooke, Nicholas Phipps, Joseph Buffum, and Josiah Southwick*, are hereby Sentenced, according to the Order of the General Court in October last, to Banishment, to depart out of this Jurisdiction by the eighth day of June next, on pain of Death; and if any of them after the said eighth day of June next, shall be found within this Jurisdiction, they shall be apprehended by any Constable or other Officer of this Jurisdiction, and be committed to close prison, there to lye till the next court of assistance, where they shall be tryed, and being found guilty of the breach of this Law, shall be put to death.

This is a true Copy taken out of the Courts Records, as attests
Edw. Rawson Secretary.

The true cause of the banishment of those six Inhabitants of Salem in New-England, was because they went not to their Meeting, and met together by themselves at each others houses; the cause being so small, they were ashamed its like to tell the crime, or what it was for, in this their sentence, seeing also they had imprisoned, & whips, and taken away great sums of money from them for the same thing before.

The Law for paying 5. s. a week for such as go not to their Meeting.

IT is ordered & decreed by this Court, & Authority thereof, That wheresoever the Ministry of the Word is established, according to the Order of the Gospel, throughout this jurisdiction, every person shall duly resort and attend thereunto respectively, upon the Lords Days, and upon such publike Fast-Days and dayes of Thanksgiving as are to be generally kept by the appointment of Authority; And if any person within this Jurisdiction shall without just and necessary cause withdraw himself from hearing the publike Ministry of the Word, after due means of conviction used,

he shall forfeit for his absence from any such publike meeting, five shillings; all such offences to be heard and determined by any one magistrate or more, from time to time.

This Law was made in the year 1646. and of late have been executed upon many Inhabitants, to the taking away land and houses, cattel and other goods from many that could not in conscience join with them in their Worship, because their hands are defiled with blood.

There is certain information sent, That the last General Court held in the third Month, called May, that they have made, a Law, and proclaimed it in all their Government, That all such children, and servants, and others, that for conscience sake cannot come to their meeting to Worship, and have not Estates in their hands, to answer this foregoing Law of 3s. per Week, must be sold for slaves to *Barbados* or *Virginia*, or other remote parts, to pay their Fines.

*A Copy of a Law made at New-Plymouth in
New-England, in the first
Month, 1658.*

VHereas there hath been several Persons come into this Government, commonly called Quakers, whose Doctrines and Practices manifestly tend to the subverting of the fundamentals of Christian Religion, Church-Order, and the civil Peace of this Government, as appears by the Testimonies given in several Depositions, and other-ways; It is Enacted by this Court, and the Authority thereof, That no Quakers, nor persons commonly so called, be entertained by any person or persons within this Government, under the penalty of Five pounds for every such default, or be whipt; and in case any one shall entertain any of those persons, ignorantly, if he shall testify on his Oath that he knew them not to be such, he shall be free of the aforesaid penalty, Provided, he upon his first discover-
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ing them to be such, do discover them to the Constable, or his Deputy.

It is also enacted by the Court, and the Authority thereof, That if any stranger or Quaker, or any person commonly so called, shall come into any Township within this Government, and by any person or persons, be known or suspected to be such a one, the person so knowing or suspecting him, shall forthwith acquaint the Constable or his Deputy, on pain of Imprisonment, and so liable to continue in Court, who forthwith shall diligently endeavour to apprehend them, and command them to depart out of the Township, and this Government; and in case any such person deliver or Refuse to depart, then the said Constable or Deputy shall apprehend them, or him, and bring him or them before the Magistrate in their Township if there be any, & where there is none to the Select men appointed by the Court for that purpose, who shall cause him or them to be Whipt by the Constable or his Deputy, or pay Five pounds, and then conveyed out of the Township, and the same Constable is to be taken with every of them as often as any of them transgress this Order, in case of extremity for Harbour or Food, the Constable or his Deputy shall Relieve them for their Money; Provided, They suffer not any person or persons to Resort unto them whilst they are under their custody.

And forasmuch as the Meetings of such persons, whether strangers or others, proveth to the destroying of the peace of this present Government, it is therefore enacted by this Court, and the Authority thereof, That henceforth no such Meeting be assembled, or kept by any person in any place within this Government, under the penalty of 40 s. a time for every Speaker, and 10 s. a time for every Hearer, and 40 s. a time for the owner of the place that permits them to meet together; And if they meet together at their silent (so called) then every person so meeting together, shall pay 10 s. a time, and the owner of the place 40 s. a time.

Forasmuch as it was ordered at last Court last, That all such as were house-keepers, and at their own dispose, that

were not Free-men, and have not taken the Oath of Fidelity to this Government, should take the said Oath by the same then prefixed, or to be fined to the Colonies use the sum of 5*l*. And whereas divers persons notwithstanding all patience and long forbearance, refuse to take the said Oath, and yet make their residence amongst us, It is therefore enacted by the Court, That every such person or persons shall every General Court be summoned to make their appearance thereat during the time of their abode in this Government; and if any such person or persons shall refuse to take the said Oath, shall be fined the sum of 5*l*. to the Colonies use.

Whereas the multitude of Free-men is but small, and the Inhabitants of the Townships many more, who have equal votes with the Free-men in the choice of Deputies, who being the body of the Free-men, Representative together with the Magistrates, have equal votes for the enacting of Laws, who by weakness, prejudice, or otherwise it hath or may come to pass, that very unfit or unworthy persons may be chosen, that cannot answer the Courts Trust in such place,

It is therefore ordered, That at such Courts as Magistrates and Deputies are to act in, in making Laws, and being assembled, the Court in the first place take notice of their Members, and if they find any unfit for such a trust, that they, and the reason thereof be returned to the town from whence they were sent, that they may make choice of more able persons to send in their stead, as the time will permit.

Whereas it hath been an ancient and an wholesome Order, bearing Date, &c. That no person coming from other parts be allowed an Inhabitant in this Jurisdiction, but by the appointment of the Governor, or two of the Magistrates at least, and that many persons contrary to this order of Court, crept into some Townships, which are, and may be a great disturbance to our more peaceable proceedings; Be it enacted, that if any such person or persons shall be found, that hath not, doth not, or will not apply and approve themselves

selves so, as to procure the approbation of the Governor, and two of the Assistants, that such be enquired after; and if any such persons shall be found, that either they depart the Government; or else that the Court take some such course therein, as shall be thought meet.

It is enacted by the Court, That henceforth no publike Meeting shall be set up, but such as the Court shall approve of.

We had Information, that at a General Court at New-Haven, they made a Law to this effect.

THAT every Quaker that came into their Jurisdiction the first time, should be severely Whipt, and be kept at Work in the House of Correction; and the second time be branded in the one Hand, and be kept at Work as aforesaid; and the third time be branded in the other Hand, and kept at Work; and the fourth time be bored through the tongue with a hot Iron. This is the substance of their Law as we were informed, though not their Law word for word, because we have not a Copy of it.

All these Laws have been cruelly and rigorously executed both on Strangers and inhabitants, to the imprisoning, whipping many several times over, Ear-cuttings, Brandings, and Banishments, Confiscation of Goods, and at last banishment on pain of death from their Habitations and Families, which at present is the state of some, and many more its like may be ere this time: Seven were banished on pain of death, and by late information five were in prison at Boston to receive the like Sentence, besides what may be more.

*A true Copy of a Letter which was sent
from one who was a Magistrate in
New-England, to a Friend of his
in LONDON.*

Honoured Sir,

MY Respects presented to you and Mrs. Brown; hoping and desiring your present and eternal welfare, &c. As for the state and condition of things amongst us, it is sad, and like so to continue; the Antichristian persecuting spirit is very active, and that in the powers of this World; he that will not whip and lash, banish and persecute men that differ in matters of Religion, must not sit on the Bench, nor sustain any office in Commonwealth; Last election Mr. *Hatherly* and my self left off the Bench, and my self discharged of my Captain-ship, because I had entertained some of the *Quakers* at my House (thereby that I might the better be acquainted with their principles;) I thought better so to do, then with the blind World to censure, condemn, rail, and revile them when they never saw their persons, nor knew any of their principles: But the *Quakers* and my self cannot close in divers things, and so I signified to the Court I was no *Quaker*, but must bear my testimony against sundry things that they held, as I had occasion and opportunity; but withall I told them, That as I was no *Quaker*, so I would be no Persecutor. This spirit did work those two years that I was of the Magistracy, during which time I was on sundry occasions forced to declare my dissent in sundry assings of that nature, which although done with all moderation of expression, together with due respect unto the rest, yet it wrought great dis-affection and prejudice in them against me, so that if I should say some of themselves set others on work to frame a Petition against

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me, that so they might have a seeming ground from others (though first moved and acted by themselves) to lay me what they could under reproach) I should do no wrong, the Petition was with nineteen hands, it will be too long to make rehearſal of; it wrought ſuch a diſturbance in our Town, and in our Military company, that when the Act of Court was read in the Head of the Company, had not I been preſent, and made a ſpeech to them, I fear there had been ſuch ſctings as would have been of a ſad conſequence. The court was again followed with another Petition of 54. hands, that I might be reſtored to them; or ſome ſatisfactory Reaſons wherefore I might not: The court return the Petitioners an answer with much plauſibleneſs of ſpeech, carrying with it great ſhew of reſpect to them, readily acknowledging with the Petitioners, my faults and errors, and how uſeful I had been in my Place, profeſſing they had nothing at all againſt me, but onely in that thing of giving entertainment to the Quakers, when as I broke no Law in giving them a nights lodging or two, and ſome victuals; for our Law then was, *If any entertain a quaker, and keeps him after he is warned by a Magiſtrate to depart, the party ſo entertaining ſhall pay 20. s. a week for entertaining them.* Since has been made a Law, *If any entertain a quaker, if but a quarter of an hour, he is to forfeit 5. l.* Another, *That if any ſee a quaker, he is bound if he lives ſix miles or more from the Conſtable, yet he muſt preſently go and give notice to the Conſtable, or elſe is ſubject to the cenſure of Court,* (which may be, *Hang him.*) Another; *That if the Conſtable know or hear of any quaker in his Precincts, he is preſently to apprehend him, and if he will not preſently depart the Town, the Conſtable is to whip them, and ſo ſend them away; and divers have been whipt with us in our Patent; and truly to tell you plainly that the whipping of them with ſuch cruelty as ſome have been whipt, and their patience under it, hath ſometimes been the occaſion of gaining more adherence to them, then if they had ſuffered them openly to have preached a Sermon: Alſo another Law, That if there be a Quakers meeting any where in this Colony, the party in whoſe houſe, or on whoſe ground, is to pay 40. s. the Preaching quaker 40. s. every hearer*

beaver 10. s. Yea, and if they have Meetings, though nothing
 be spoken when they so meet, which they say, So it falls out
 sometimes. Our last Law, That now they are to be apprehended
 and carried before a Magistrate, and by him committed to be kept
 close prisoner until he will promise to depart, and never come again,
 and will also pay his fees, which I perceive they will do neither
 the one nor other; and they must be kept onely with the Countreys
 allowance, which is but small, (namely, course bread and water)
 no friend may bring them any thing, none may be permitted to speak
 to them; nay, if they have money of their own, they may not make
 use of that to relieve themselves. In the *Masachusetts* (namely
Boston Collony) after they have whipt them, cut their ears, have
 now at last gone the furthest step they can, they banish them upon
 pain of death if ever they come there again; We expect that we
 must do the like, we must dance after their Pipe; Now *Plymouth*-
Saddle is upon the Bay-Horse, (to wit, *Boston*) we shall follow
 them on the career, for it is well if in some there be not a desire
 to be their apes and imitators in all their proceedings in things of
 this nature; all these carnal and antichristian wayes being not
 of Gods appointment, effect nothing as to the obstructing or
 hindering them in their way or course, it is onely the Word and
 Spirit of the Lord that is able to convince gain-sayers; they are
 the mighty Weapons of a christians Warfare, by which great and
 mighty things are done and accomplished: They have many Meetings,
 and many adherents, almost the whole town of *Sandwich* is adhering
 towards them; and give me leave a little to acquaint you with their
 sufferings, which is grievous unto, and sads the hearts of most of
 the precious Saints of God, it lyes down with them, and rises up
 with them, and they cannot put it out of their minds, to see and
 hear of poor Families deprived of their comforts, and they brought
 into penury and want, (you may say, by what means? and to what
 end?) as far as I am able to iudge of the end, it is to force them
 from their homes and lawful habitations, and to drive them out of
 our coasts; *Masachusetts* have banished six of their own Inhabitants

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birants to be gone on pain of death, and I wish that blood be not shed; but our poor people are pillaged, and plundered of their goods, and happily when they have no more to satisfy this insatiable desire, at last may be forced to fly, and glad they have their lives for a prey: As for the means by which they are so impoverished, there is the first place where scrupulous of an Oath, why then, we must put in force an old Law, that all must take the Oath of fidelity, this being tendered, they will not take it, and then we must add more force to the Law, and that is, if any shall refuse or neglect to take it by such a time, shall pay 5 l. or depart the Colony.

When the time is come they are the same as they were, then goes out the Marshall, and fetches away their Cows, and other Cattle. Well, another Court comes, they are required to take the Oath again, they cannot, then 5 l. more, on this account 35 head of Cattle, as I am credibly informed, has been by the authority of our Court taken from them the latter part of this Summer; and these people say, if they have more right to them then themselves, let them take them, some that had a Cow onely, some two Cows, some three Cowes, and many small Children in their Families, to whom in Summer time, a Cow or two was the greatest outward comfort they had for their Subsistence. A poor Weaver that has seven small children, or eight, I know not which, he himself lame in his body, had but two cows, and both taken from him; the Marshall asked him what he would do, he must have his Cows, the man said, that God that gave him them, he doubted not, but would still provide for him To fill up the measure yet more full, though to the further emptying of *Sandwich* men of their outward comforts, the last Court of assistants, the first *Tuesday* of this instant the Court was pleased to determine Bites on *Sandwich* men for meetings, sometimes on first dayes of the week, sometimes on other dayes, as they say, they meet ordinarily twice in the week besides the Lords day, 150 l. whereof *William Nuland* is 24 l. for he and his wife, at 10 s. a meeting, *William Allen* 46 l. some affirm it 49 l. the poor Weaver before spoken of 20 l. Brother Cook told me, one of the Brethren

at *Bassett* certified him that he was in the Weavers house when (cruel *Barlow*) *Sandwich* Marshal came to demand the summe, and he said that he was fully enformed of all the poor man had, and thought if all laid together it was not worth 10l. what will be the end of such courses and practices, the Lord onely knows, I heartily and earnestly pray, that these and such like courses, neither raise up amongst us, nor bring in upon us, either the sword or any devouring calamity, as a just avenger of the Lords quarrel for Acts of injustice and oppression, and that we may every one find out the plague of his own heart, and put away the evil of his own doings, & meet the Lord by entreaties of peace, before it be too late, and there be no remedy.

Our Civil Powers are so exercised in things appertaining to the Kingdom of Christ in matters of Religion and Conscience, that we can have no time to effect any thing, that tends to the promotion of the Civil Weal of the prosperity of the place, but now we must have a State Religion, such as the powers of the world will allow (and no other) a State-Minister, and a State way of maintenance, and we must worship and serve the Lord Jesus, as the world shall appoint us, we must all go to the publick place of meeting in the Parish where he dwells, or be presented, I am informed of three or four score last Court presented, for not coming to publick meetings, and let me tell you how they brought this about, you may remember a Law once made, called *Thomas Hints* Law, that if any neglected the worship of God in the place where he lives, and set up a worship contrary to Gods, and the allowance of this Government, to the publick prophanation of Gods holy day, and Ordinance shall pay 100. this Law would not reach, what then was aimed at because he must do so and so, that is, all things there expressed, or else break not the Law in *March* last a court of Deputies was called, and some Acts touching Quakers were made; and then they contrived to make this Law to be serviceable to them, and that was by putting out the word (and) and put in the word (or) which is a disjunctive, and makes every branch to become a Law, so now if any do neglect, or will not come to the publick Meetings;

10 s. for every defect, certainly, we either have less wit, or more money then the *Massachusetts*, for, for 5 s. a day a man may stay away till it come to 12. for 13. but if he had it but to pay them: and these men altering this Law now in *March*, yet left it dated *June* the 6th 1651. and so it stands as the Act of a General court, they to be the Authors of it seven years before it was in being, and so you your self have your part and share in it, if the Recorder lie not, but what may be the reason that they should not by another Law made and dated that comit, as well effect what was intended, as by altering a word, (and so the whole sence) of the Law, and leave this their Act by the date of it charged on another courts account; surely the chief instruments in the businesse, being privy to the Act of Parliament for liberty should too openly have acted repugnant to a Law of *England*, but if they can do the thing, and leave it on a court as making it six years before the Act of Parliament, there can be no danger in this, and that they were privy to the Act of Parliament for liberty to be then in being, is evident that the Deputies might be free to act it, they told us that now the Protector stood not engaged to the articles for liberty; for the Parliament had now taken the power into to their own hands, and had given the Protector a new Oath, onely in general to maintain the Protestant Religion, and so produced the oath in a Paper in writing, whereas the Act of Parliament, and the Oath are both in one book in Print, so that they that were privy to the one, could not be ignorant of the other, but still all is well, if we can but keep the people ignorant of their liberties and Priviledges, then we have liberty to act in our own wills what we please, we are wrapped up in a Labyrinth of confused Laws, that the free mens power is quite gone, and it was said last *June* Court by one, that they knew nothing the freemen had there to do; *Sandwich* men may not go to the Bay, least they be taken up for Quakers, *William Nuland* was there about his occasions some ten dayes since, and they put him in prison 24 hours, and sent for divers to witness against him; but they had not proof enough to make him a Quaker, which if he had he should have been whipt, nay they may not

not go about their own occasions in other Towns in our Colony, but warrants lie in ambush to apprehend them, and bring them before a Magistrate to give an account of their businesse. Some of the Quakers from *Road Island* came to bring their goods to trade with them, and that for far reasonabler terms, then the professing, oppressing Merchants of the Country, but that will not be suffered, that unlesse the Lord step in to their help and assistance in some way beyond mans conceiving, their case is sad and to be pitied, and truly, it moves bowels of compassion from all sorts, except those in place, who carry with a high hand towards them, through mercy we have as yet amongst us worthy Mr. *Danster*, whom the Lord has made boluly to bear testimony against the Spirit of persecution: Our Bench now is *Thomas Prince*, Governour, *Mr. Collier*, Captain *Willet*, Captain *Winslow*, *Mr. Alden*, Lieutenant *Southworth*, *William Bradford*, *Thomas Hinkly*. Mr. *Collier* last June would not sit on the Bench if I sat there, and now will not sit the next year, unlesse he may have 30 l. sit by him: our Court and Deputies last June made Captain *Winslow* a Major, surely we are all mercenary Souldiers, that must have a Major imposed on us; Doubtlesse the next Court they may choose us a Governor, and Assistants also, a free man shall need to do nothing, but bear such burdens as shall be laid upon him; Mr. *Alden* has deceived the expectation of many, and indeed lost the affections of such as I judge were his cordiall Christian friends, who is very active in such wayes, as I pray God may not be charged on him, to be oppressions of a high nature.

Written in December 1658.

This Letter was published, not by the direction or knowledge of the Author, who sent it over to his friend for private information, but seeing that upon the perusal it is found to be of publick concernment, which coming into the hands of some, it was thought meet to be published to the view of all.

Even the sea Monstres draw out the breasts, they give suck to their young ones. The Daughter of my people is become cruel like the Asstriches in the wildernesse, Lament. 4.3.

THE END.